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Georgia Humanities Announces New Board Members

Atlanta, Georgia – Georgia Humanities welcomes Lisa Bayer (Athens), Brian Peterson (LaGrange), and Alonzo Sexton (Atlanta) to its Board of Directors in 2023. They join twenty-four other distinguished Georgians whose experience and leadership help support the organization's efforts to advance the humanities statewide.

"We're delighted to welcome our new board members to Georgia Humanities," said Tom Daniel, chair of the board. "Their backgrounds and expertise will bring fresh perspective and invaluable insight to our organization. We look forward to working with them to further our mission of connecting people and ideas to encourage conversation, broaden perspectives, and increase understanding."

Georgia Humanities would also like to recognize and thank its outgoing board members for their significant contributions. "It was great to have Peggy Galis, Gary Hauk, and Andres Villegas as board members over the last several years," said Laura McCarty, president of Georgia Humanities. "Their perspectives and leadership were especially vital during the pandemic, with its rapid change and uncertainty about the future. We look forward to their continuing to connect as board alumni, whose collective wisdom and service have sustained Georgia Humanities over its fifty-year history."

The Board of Directors is the governing body of Georgia Humanities, providing long-term vision and financial oversight for the organization. Members are elected to three-year terms and represent different sectors of the state's economy and geographic regions. The Governor of Georgia appoints up to six members, with additional members nominated by the public.

New Board Members

Lisa Bayer is the director of the University of Georgia Press and the immediate past-president of the Association of University Presses. A thirty-year veteran of scholarly publishing, she has worked at the University of Illinois Press, Penn State University Press, Minnesota Historical Society Press, and Southern Illinois University Press. Bayer is the principal investigator for the Georgia Open History Library, funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, an executive committee member for the New Georgia Encyclopedia, and a board member of the Athens Historical Society.

Brian Peterson, Ph.D., is the vice president for academic affairs at LaGrange College and has over thirty years of experience in higher education. He began his academic career as an economics instructor and has held a range of faculty and leadership appointments at Central College, Manchester College, and Indiana University. Peterson's research, covering economics as well as pedagogical and leadership topics, has been published extensively, and his insights on economic issues have been sought by broadcast media.

Alonzo Sexton, M.D., is the president and founder of ATL Orthopedics, a private orthopedic practice that focuses on representative care and new technology and specializes in the treatment of sports injuries. He is also the CEO and founder of nCight, a service that uses blockchain technology to unlock patient and physician data to support independent physicians. Sexton received his M.D. from Emory University and has served as an athletics team physician for the University of Georgia and Georgia State University. He is involved in several nonprofit organizations and is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta and a fellow of the Herndon Directors Institute.

About Georgia Humanities

Georgia Humanities is a nonprofit organization that connects people and communities to inspire conversation, education, and understanding. With programming that engages all ages and backgrounds, Georgia Humanities encourages Georgians to explore what shapes us as individuals and binds us as a society. Funding for Georgia Humanities is provided by the Georgia General Assembly, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and various foundations, donors, and partners. For more information, please visit GeorgiaHumanities.org.

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